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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 597
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION relative to the presentation of motion picture previews.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has always worked to promote the welfare of children and youth in their homes, schools, communities, and places of worship; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee PTA has worked to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee PTA has always worked to assist parents in developing the skills that they need to raise and protect their children; and

WHEREAS, the motion picture rating system is a voluntary system sponsored by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) to provide parents with advance information on films, thus enabling parents to make judgments on motion pictures they want or do not want their children to see; and

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WHEREAS, the President of the MPAA testified before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee that the film industry has a “duty to inform parents about film content”; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) report on *The Marketing of Violent Entertainment to Children* found that theaters routinely show trailers (previews) for motion pictures that are not rated at the same level as the feature presentation; and

WHEREAS, the FTC’s report showed that, even though the major theater chains have adopted policies to limit trailer placement to within one rating of the feature presentation, theaters appear to grant exceptions to this “within one rating” policy; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee PTA has gone on record as supporting legislation to limit motion picture previews to advertising motion pictures of the same rating as the feature presentation, or of a less restrictive rating, than the feature presentation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby endorses the concept of limiting motion picture Previews (trailers) to advertising motion pictures of the same rating as the feature presentation, or of a less restrictive rating, than the feature presentation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our gratitude to the Tennessee PTA for their years of dedicated advocacy and meritorious service on behalf of the children of this great State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Tennessee PTA.